

BRIGHT IDEAS

BELD

Braintree Electric
Light Department
and
BELD Broadband

VOTED BEST
10+
OF BRAINTREE
BestOfSurveys.com

A monthly newsletter for BELD & BELD Broadband customers, published February 2019

Prepare for winter storms now

Our crews work around the clock in difficult conditions to restore power as quickly as possible when winter storms cause outages. We hope these tips help you better manage while we're getting your lights back on.

First: If someone in your household relies on electric life support equipment, we strongly recommend emergency **back-up power**. This might be a battery-operated system, an uninterruptible power supply, or a generator.

Avoid candles, or anything else with an open flame. **Stock up** on canned or dried food (and a manual can opener), and store fresh water if you have an electric pump. Keep a corded telephone or cell phone handy—cordless phones will not work without power.

If you lose power, be sure it's not due to a blown fuse or tripped circuit breakers in your home by check-

ing to **see if your neighbors have power**. If not, call us at 781.348.BELD (2353) to report the outage.

Make sure all electric devices your household relies on are fully charged if the forecast turns nasty. Don't wait until roads are impassable to discover that you can't find your cords—especially a car charger. That may come in handy during extended outages as you can charge your devices from your vehicle if necessary. Have a flashlight, a battery-operated radio, a wind-up clock and fresh batteries. Although a smartphone may have these features, it can take a lot of juice to run multiple apps ... and did you remember to charge it?

Finally, turn off electric appliances that were on before the outage and turn on automatically. **Unplug sensitive appliances** such as TVs, computers and microwaves. Temporary power surges can damage microprocessors inside them, so we recommend using plug-in surge protectors.

Good Neighbor Energy Fund now open

The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund is now open to all eligible candidates. The Fund helps households in temporary crisis who do not qualify for federal or state assistance with the payment of their energy expenses. GNEF's "Give the Gift of Warmth" campaign goal this year is to raise \$500,000 and assist more than 1,500 households.

The Fund is often the last resort for families who do not qualify for federal and state assistance programs. The Salvation Army, which administers the Fund, pays the energy provider directly for households whose gross income falls between 60 and 80 percent of the state's median income levels. For example, a household size of four would need to have a total gross yearly income of between \$68,289 and \$91,052 to qualify.

This campaign year's Fund disbursement is \$300 per eligible household per heating season. To apply to the Fund for assistance, visit your local Salvation Army Corps Community Center or call 800.334.3047.

Participating energy companies support their respective customers' generosity through various giving programs. Braintree residents who wish to support the Fund can **"Give the Gift of Warmth" by using the green Good Neighbor Energy Fund donation envelope** found in January electric bills, **donating online** at magoodneighbor.org or **mailing a check** to "Good Neighbor Energy Fund," c/o The Salvation Army, 25 Shawmut Road, Canton, Massachusetts 02021-1408.



BELD Broadband is (still) Best of Braintree

Thank you for naming BELD Broadband the "Best of Greater Braintree" in 2018! For the tenth time in a row you voted us Best Cable TV Service, and this is the eleventh year we've accepted the Best Internet Service Provider award.

Each year, Market Surveys of America conducts this online survey. Log in to bestofsurveys.com to vote for us in 2019 and for complete details. Also consider us for the Non-cell Phone category. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Why choose an electric car, and which one is right for you?

It's been a great start to the new year for Braintree Drives Electric (BDE). Our new logo is attracting attention, our redesigned website has launched, and our electric vehicle (EV) showcase has begun!

a “back-up” gasoline engine. This means you never have to charge on the go, only at home overnight. When a PHEV's battery gets low, it seamlessly switches to a gasoline hybrid mode, giving you the same 300+

mile range you are used to now ... but only if you need it. The bottom line: you can choose to drive on electricity only and/or gasoline, and decide what type of vehicle is best for your lifestyle and driving needs.

BDE offers comprehensive EV help from the comfort of your own home. Email BraintreeDrivesElectric@beld.com or call toll-free

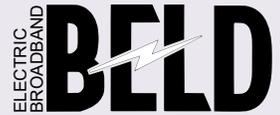


You might have noticed the wind rushing off the back of the sporty EV in our new logo. We did that because an electric motor has more torque—tire-turning rotational force—from the get-go. In addition to this surge of power right off the line, most electrics also offer inherently better handling and ride due to a superior weight distribution and low center of gravity. They really hug the corners! Better driving performance just one of eight great reasons to electrify your next ride. Visit BraintreeDrivesElectric.com to learn the other seven.

The batteries in some of today's affordable EVs can take you more than 200 miles on a full charge. Other electric cars, called plug-in hybrid electrics (PHEVs), also have

1.833.4.EV.HELP (1.833.443.8363) to speak with a dedicated EV specialist. Still not sure which EV is right for you?

Visit our Electric Car Showcase at South Shore Plaza! You'll see some EVs up close in Center Court, and learn all about rebates, incentives, charging and special deals. You can even sign up for a test drive. We look forward to seeing you there until March 31!



www.beld.com
150 Potter Road
Braintree, MA 02184
781.348.BELD (2353)

PAYMENT OPTIONS
Sign up for AutoPay at beld.com, or call 781.348.1001 to make a one-time payment

PAYMENT LOCATIONS
150 Potter Road
Mon-Fri: 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Th: 7:30 a.m.–7 p.m.
Drop boxes
Top of Potter Road
Beside Town Hall
Cash accepted only at South Shore Bank
1010 Washington St.
372 Washington St.

BROADBAND HELPDESK
Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
S-S & holidays: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

COMMISSION MEETINGS
Public meetings are usually held monthly. Call 781.348.2353 or check www.beld.com to confirm time and date.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS
Monday, February 18
Presidents Day

COMMISSIONERS

Thomas Reynolds
Chairman



Anthony Agnitti
Vice Chair



James Regan
Secretary



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Braintree trash/recycling update

While shoveling, please create a little “safe” space for your trash & recycling carts to ensure they are not hidden or topple off a snow bank! Sunrise Scavenger services 2,000 households daily, and it really makes it easier if carts can be accessed properly so they do not slide off a snow mound or get blown over. Proper placement makes it possible to finish collection as safely as possible during our challenging New England winters. Thank you!



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